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Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.9.2024)

The European Union's Geographical Indication (GI) system protects names of products that are linked to their specific geographical origin.

Once a name is registered it enjoys the status of an intellectual property right. There is a guarantee of authenticity ensuring that only products coming from a specified region and respecting criteria spelled out in the relevant product specification can be marketed under that name, thereby protecting both producers and consumers against imitation and counterfeiting and helping operators and companies to valorise their intangible assets.

The GI system covers an array of products including food, wines, spirit drinks and other agricultural products. In order for one of such products to be registered as a GI, certain criteria need to be met and a formal two-tier registration process needs to be completed, with a first round of analysis at national level and a subsequent second phase at Union level.

On the basis of the information provided in the question of the Honourable Member the Commission is not in the position to make any assumptions on the possible eligibility of the Reggio Calabria's bergamot as a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI). The Commission has not received such request and as indicated above a national procedure would have to be completed first in any case.

The Commission wishes to inform the Honourable Member about the existence of a registered Protected Designation of Origin with the name 'Bergamotto di Reggio Calabria – Olio essenziale' which is a related product.